GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2173
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
SPECIFIC DATA ON HANDICAP
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `disabled angry at non-inclusion` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 31.01.2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Census Commissioner;

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government have prepared the frame work of the persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 granting certain rights and privileges to the disabled;

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
SMT. MANEKA GANDHI

(a)to(d) Yes, Sir. The Government has always been concerned about collecting accurate data on the number of disabled persons in the country. Data on disability was collected in 1981 Census. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowermenthave taken up the issue of collection of disability data through the 2001 Census from 1997 onwards with the concerned authorities. We have also offered to provide training to enumerators to be used for this purpose. However, in view of the technical difficulties in collecting accurate disability data in the 1981 Census, the Registrar General & Census Commissioner as well as the Ministryof Home Affairs are of the view that Census is not the right medium for collecting reliable data on disability, it has, therefore, been decided to request the Department of Statistics to direct National Sample Survey Organisation

(NSSO) to undertake a comprehensive sample survey to collect data on the incidence of disability as was done earlier in 1991.

(e)to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in respect of Part (e) to (f) ofLok Sabha UnstarredQuestion No.2173 for answer on 8.3.2000, put up Shri Ramsheth Thakur, regarding `specific data on Handicap`.

Under the provisions of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995,
(i) The following have been Constituted Central Coordination Committee, which undertakes review and coordination of the activities of all Departments of Government and other Governmental and non- Governmental organizations which are dealing with matters relating to persons with disabilities,
(ii) Central Executive Committee, which is responsible for carrying out thedecisions of the Central Coordination Committee, have been constituted, respectively. The Central Government has also appointed Chief Commissioner for Persons withDisabilities under the Act to supervise/ monitor the implementation of the above Act. Similarly, most of the State Governments and constituted State Executive Committee and State Executive Committee and appointed the State Commissioner for persons withdisabilities, as required under the Act.
2. In order to reach maximum number of disabled persons in the country, the Government implements the following programs/ schemes for persons with disabilities: â€¦
(a) In consonance with the policy of providing a complete package of welfare services to the physically, mentally, hearing and visually handicapped individuals and groups and in order to effectively deal with the multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the Ministry of SJ &E has established six National/Apex Institutes, each working in a specific area of disability.

(b) Two Schemes are being implemented for providing support to non-government agencies working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(c) The Rehabilitation Council of India, which is statutory body for standardisation andtraining of rehabilitation professional,

recognition of training institutions and registration of professionals, has taken up a plan for man-power in disability rehabilitation throughout the country.

(d) The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), Kanpur has been set up with the main objective of developing and manufacturing standard aids and appliances for the disabled persons and to make them available at reasonable prices to them throughout India.

(e) The District Rehabilitation Centre Scheme (DRC) provides comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disabled right at their door step in 11 districts of the country. Four Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres (RRTCs) have also been set up at Chennai, Mumbai, Cuttack and Lucknow for training and manpower development in the field of rehabilitation, particularly for the DRCs.

(f) Under the Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped financial assistance is given to States for running special employment exchanges and normal employment exchanges, for persons with disabilities.

(g) For providing suitable and cost-effective aids and appliances and improving the mobility and enhancement of employment opportunities for the disabled, the scheme of Science & Technology Project In mission Mode has been launched. Under this project, financial assistance is provided for generation of new technologies and guiding these to large scale use to meet social needs.

(h) Government has also set up a Corporation, namely, National Handicaped Finance &Development Corporation for economic development of the handicapped persons.

3 . Further, the Government have, in the current year, formulated several schemes specifically for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. These include six Composite Regional Resource Centres in different parts of the country to provide services for diffferent kinds of disabilities as outreach extension centres of the National Institutes in the disability sector; four Regional Resource Centres for persons with spinally injuries and orthopaedic disabilities as a Central Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State share on 90:10 basis; four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) for easy availability of quality aids and appliances. A new four tier-scheme namely, National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been recently approved in the State sector in order to create infrastructure at State/ District/ Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped. In addition, more than hundred districts have been identified for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the doorsteps of persons with disabilities. Services identified include setting up of composite fitment and rehabilitation centres in collaboration between the National Institutes/ Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India/ District Rehabilitation Centres under the Central Government and the District administration/ State Government respectively. A Bill for setting up a National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has been passed to provide support to those vulnerable categories and their families.